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Guide to the Sergei Evreinow Correspondence and Papers

GEN MSS 296



by Robert Bird and Nicole Bouche

July 1997

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 296

CREATOR: Evreinov, Sergeĭ Aleksandrovich, 1895-1960

TITLE: Sergeĭ Aleksandrovich Evreinov correspondence and papers

DATES: 1926-1959

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.6 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials in Russian, French, and English.

SUMMARY: 52 ALS and 15 TLS from N. N. Evreinov to Sergeĭ Aleksandrovich Evreinov, 6 carbons of letters from Sergeĭ Aleksandrovich Evreinov to N. N. Evreinov. Also includes correspondence between Sergeĭ Aleksandrovich Evreinov and Anna Aleksandrovna Evreinova, Arthur Lourié, and various printed materials (theatrical programs, clippings, memorial notices) and photographs relating to N. N. Evreinov.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.evreinov>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.evreinov>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Francis R. T. Evreinov, 1968.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 2: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Sergei Evreinow Correspondence and Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Sergei Evreinow Correspondence and Papers Evreinov. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

SERGEI ALEKSANDROVICH EVREINOW (1895-1960)

Sergei Aleksandrovich Evreinow, born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1895, was the son of Alexander S. and Anna Evreinoff. He was an accomplished musician who ran a music distribution business and also worked in the insurance industry and as a financial writer. His own interests are reflected in his correspondence with Ivan Lapshin, Artur Lur'e (Arthur Lourie), and Vladimir Nikolaevich Skriabin, a descendant of the composer. Little further information is available about S. A. Evreinow; the correspondence indicates that he had probably arrived in America at a young age, since he could read N. N. Evreinov's letters in Russian but preferred to reply in French.

Evreinow married Frances Rhoades Tatnall in 1931 in Wilmington, Delaware. By 1933 the couple was living in New Haven, Connecticut, where Frances Evreinow worked in the Yale University Library. Sergei Evreinow died in New Haven in 1960.

Sergei Evreinow was a distant relative of dramatist Nikolai Nikolaevich Evreinov.

N. N. EVREINOV (1879-1953)

Russian dramatist, theater director and historian Nikolai Nikolaevich Evreinov was born February 13/25 1879. He studied music composition under Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Glazunov, as a photograph of the three, located among the papers, testifies. In 1907-1908, and again in 1911-1912, N. N. Evreinov directed seasons of antique plays at "Starinnyi teatr"; in 1908 he directed Gabriele d'Annunzio's *Francesca di Rimini* at V. F. Kommisarzhenskaia's theater, and from 1910 to 1916 he collaborated in the theater "Krivoe zerkalo". These productions not only made him known as a daring and brilliant director and playwright, but also gave him much material for his historical studies of the stage. His ideas of the "theatricalization of life" and the "monodrama" remain influential in modern drama, and some of his plays have been found to presage Expressionism and the theater of the absurd.

After some equivocation, in 1925 Evreinov decided to remain permanently outside Russia. His European renown allowed him to continue his tireless theatrical and publishing activities from Paris. During the 1930s, he worked on several motion pictures in France. In 1935, Evreinov was honored with an invitation to direct at the Paris National Theater. As his letters to S. A. Evreinow show, Evreinov and his wife, Anna Aleksandrovna Kashina-Evreinova, weathered the German occupation and post-war depression quite badly. Still, he continued to write and publish quite prolifically until his death on September 7, 1953.

Scope and Contents

[Series I, Correspondence](#), largely consists of N. N. Evreinov's letters to S. A. Evreinov. These provide a fascinating portrait of the dramatist's strong personality and a record of his artistic triumphs and financial difficulties. The two men apparently met in 1926 in New York, where Evreinov was attempting to enter into the American theater world and arrange translations of his "countless" books. Apart from a series of lectures in various cities, one concrete result was Evreinov's 1927 book *The Theatre in Life*. Some of the correspondence refers to productions of Evreinov's plays, particularly to that of *Korabl' pravednykh* at New York's Irving Place Art Theatre in 1926, and of *The Chief Thing* at Harvard in 1926 [?] and at Tufts College in 1949 (on this latter production see also Evreinov's correspondence with Marston Balch). A significant portion of the correspondence reflects a shared interest in clarifying the nature of their kinship; in later years, S. A. Evreinov even undertook a special genealogical study, the results of which he communicated to N. N. Evreinov. The correspondence between Evreinov and Evreinov shows that Sergei Aleksandrovich supported his distant relative quite generously in times of need, both in 1927, when Evreinov encountered some difficulties in New York, and in the post-war years. He became a close friend of the family, traveling to Paris to visit the Evreinovs. After Evreinov's death, Sergei Aleksandrovich continued to correspond with his widow. S. A. Evreinov's correspondence with Ivan Lapshin, Arthur Lourie and Vladimir Nikolaevich Skriabin testifies to his own interests in music, especially the works of Scriabin.

[Series II, Other Papers](#), includes notices and programs of N. N. Evreinov's works in the United States, including the 1927 production of *The Chief Thing*. Here one also finds obituary and commemorative items, as well as two photographs of the dramatist, one with his family and one with his teachers Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov. The series also encompasses some items bearing on S. A. Evreinov's own interests, such as clippings from the Russian-language press and materials concerning the demise of one Jacob Weinberg.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

LETTERS FROM NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH EVREINOV		
b. 1, f. 1-10	Letters	1926-49
b. 1, f. 11	Letters Envelope date 1950 Jun 20 includes part of carbon of S. A. Evreinov's reply on verso	1950
b. 1, f. 12	Letters Letter of 1951 Jun 17 includes part of carbon of S. A. Evreinov's reply on verso	1951
b. 1, f. 13-14	Letters	1952-53
LETTERS FROM ANNA ALEKSANDROVNA KASHINA-EVREINOVA		
b. 1, f. 15	Letters	1949-56, n.d.
LETTERS FROM OTHERS		
b. 1, f. 16	Balch, Marston	1950 Nov 30
b. 1, f. 17	Lapshin, Ivan	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	Lourie, Arthur Also spelled Artur Lur'e	1953 Apr 1
b. 1, f. 19	Skriabin, Vladimir Nikolaevich	1959
b. 1, f. 20	Yarmolinsky, Avraham	1948 Apr 8
b. 1, f. 21	Unidentified	1946-49, n.d.
LETTERS TO NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH EVREINOV		
b. 1, f. 22-24	Letters	1948-53, n.d.
LETTERS TO ANNA ALEKSANDROVNA KASHINA-EVREINOVA		
b. 1, f. 25	Letter	1954 Jan 19
LETTERS TO OTHERS		
b. 1, f. 26	Balch, Marston	1949-50
b. 1, f. 27	Unidentified	1959, n.d.

Series II: Other Papers

MATERIALS CONCERNING N. N. EVREINOV

b. 1, f. 28	Poster for Lecture	1926 Oct 17
b. 1, f. 29	"Prologue: The Tufts College Theater": incl. program of "The Chief Thing"	1949 May 1
b. 1, f. 30	Clippings on decease	1953
b. 1, f. 31	Funeral and commemorative notices	1953-54
b. 1, f. 32	Clippings	n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	Photograph with Nikolay Rimsky- Korsakov and A. K. Glazunov	n.d.
b. 1, f. 34	Photograph with A. A. Kashina- Evreinova, Iraida Kashina, and N. I. Butkovskaia	n.d.
MISC		
b. 1, f. 35	Tickets to charity concert	1947
b. 1, f. 36	Clippings by L. L. Sabaneev	1954
b. 1, f. 37	"Delo Kornilova": clipping	1956
b. 1, f. 38	Correspondence and clippings re Jacob Weinberg	1956-57
b. 1, f. 39	Clipping and business card	n.d.

Restricted Fragile Papers

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 2, f. 40	Box 1, folder 1
b. 2, f. 41	Box 1, folder 2
b. 2, f. 42	Box 1, folder 7
b. 2, f. 43	Box 1, folder 8
b. 2, f. 44	Box 1, folder 9
b. 2, f. 45	Box 1, folder 10
b. 2, f. 46	Box 1, folder 11
b. 2, f. 47	Box 1, folder 12
b. 2, f. 48	Box 1, folder 13
b. 2, f. 49	Box 1, folder 14
b. 2, f. 50	Box 1, folder 31

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Russian drama -- 20th Century
Theater -- Russia -- 20th Century
Theatrical producers and directors -- Russia

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Names

Evreinov, N. N. (Nikolaï Nikolaevich), 1879-1953
Evreinov, Sergei Aleksandrovich, 1895-1960
Kashina-Evreinova, Anna Aleksandrovna
Lourié, Arthur, 1892-1966
Scriabin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich, 1872-1915
Weinberg, Jacob, 1879-1956